

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4011

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, EAIR

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 530

1. DURING DINNER AT MY HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 23, SAS PRESIDENT KNUT HAGRUP CASUALLY MENTIONED HIS UNDERSTANDING BASED ON RECENT VISITS TO NATO CONSORTIUM CAPITALS THAT THE LIGHT-WEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT CHOICE MIGHT WELL BE DELAYED FOR TWO YEARS. I REPORT THIS FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH. IT MAY BE LESS IMPORTANT AS A PURPORTED FACT THAN AS AN INDICATION OF SWEDISH HOPE THAT DELAYS AND THE DIFFERING TIME-FRAME PRESSURES IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES WILL LEAD TO DIVISIONS FAVORABLE TO THE VIGGEN OR TO COLLECTIVE EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INTERESTS.

2. HAGRUP SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO CONVERSATION WITH
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NORWEGIAN GENERAL SVERRE HAMRE, WHO, HE NOTED, WAS IN

PROCESS OF CHANGING FROM HIS OSLO JOB AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ARMAMENTS TO HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, NORTHERN NORWAY. HE SAID HAMRE CONSIDERS THAT SINCE HIS STEERING GROUP COMMITTEE WORK IS COMPLETED THE EVENTUAL DECISION IS NOW PURELY A POLITICAL QUESTION.

3. HAGRUP TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THE RELATIONSHIP HE AND HIS EUROPEAN FRIENDS SEE BETWEEN THE F-104 REPLACEMENT DECISION AND WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNJUSTIFIABLE STRONG US PRESSURES ON REDUCING SAS, KLM, AND SABENA CAPACITY OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC. SEE ALSO SEPTTEL ABOUT HIS FURTHER COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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